

MM93-48

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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FCC:

2/28/96

I request that the rules implement-
ing the Children's Television Act
be strengthened so that every TV
station be required to air at
least an hour a day of
educational children's television.

I want the TV stations to
truly serve the needs of children!

Sincerely,

Pat Rodriguez
2510 Lakeside Drive
Seabrook TX

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Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hunt:

I am deeply concerned about the new "rating system" for TV programming, to be developed by the television industry or FCC for use in conjunction with a "V-Chip."

A "V-Chip" and rating system must NOT be an excuse for the TV industry to shift responsibility for establishing and enforcing sound program standards off of its own shoulders onto the shoulders of beleaguered parents OR for the FCC to not enforce the broadcast indecency law -- which, as you know, was again recently upheld by the Federal courts.

Opinion polls have repeatedly shown that a large majority of the population are concerned about the glut of sex, violence and vulgarity on TV. A primary part of this concern is the effect on children and youth. But large numbers of adults are also personally offended and do not feel that TV shows represent their own values.

The TV industry says it is giving the public what it wants and that programming merely reflects reality. But opinion polls and statements from prominent liberal and conservative spokespersons show that most people do not want a steady diet of gratuitous sex, violence and vulgarity on TV, either for themselves or their children.

Nor does TV reflect "reality" for the vast majority of the American people who, unlike all too many TV characters and guests on daytime talk shows, are not jumping from bed to bed with just about anyone other than a spouse OR engaging in one violent or antisocial act after the other OR constantly cursing OR going through life without any need for God. Even many "reality-based" programs are more fiction than fact.

Not that all TV programming is offensive or harmful. But, all too often, the TV industry serves its own interests, rather than the public interest, and reflects as "reality" the lifestyles and values of a small percentage of amoral or totally depraved individuals, rather than community standards and values. Ratings and a "V-Chip" may have their place, but not to "identify" a steady stream of cultural sewage packaged as TV "entertainment." The answer to this type of programming is to curb it at its source.

It has also been brought to my attention that Congress has instructed the FCC, "in consultation with appropriate public interest groups," to determine if rules established by the TV industry for rating TV programming are acceptable and, if not acceptable, to work with "appropriate public interest groups" in order to establish its own rating system.

In either case, I urge you to include Morality in Media [212-870-3222] as one of the "public interest groups." Founded in 1962, this national, interfaith organization has been at the forefront of efforts to uphold standards of decency on radio and TV.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronald B. Sullivan

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MM 93-48

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 8 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to encourage you to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act of 1990 (MM No. 93-48).

Broadcast television can play an unprecedented role in nourishing the minds of our nation's children. In the Commission's own words: "There are many imaginative and exciting ways in which the medium can be used to further a child's understanding of a wide range of areas: history, science, literature, the environment, drama, music, fine arts, human relations, other cultures and languages, and basic skills such as reading and mathematics which are crucial to child's development." (1974 FCC Policy Statement)

Broadcasters have the talent to create children's shows which are as educational as they are entertaining. Yet, today's children have greater access to sensationalistic talk shows, violent cartoons, and adult sitcoms than they do to programming designed to enrich their minds.

The FCC needs to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act by establishing real policies designed to safeguard the interests of our children. These should include a clearer definition of "educational" programming and a requirement that television stations air at least one hour a day of 30-minute educational shows between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. in regularly scheduled time slots.

No other regulatory body is in a position to make this happen. Please...America's children are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Sandra Millman
(Signature)

Sandra Millman
Name (Printed)

Title (if applicable)

1 Cactus Ct.
Street address

Edison, NJ 08820
City/State/Zip

NCTW
Organization (if applicable)

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Leri Strauch-Grossman
(Signature)

Leri Strauch-Grossman
Name (Printed)

CO-PRESIDENT
Title (if applicable)

82 Concord Ave
Street address

MEtuchen N. J. 08840
City/State/Zip

NATIONAL Council of Jewish Women
Organization (if applicable)
EDISON

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Elisa G. Perlman
(Signature)

Elisa G. Perlman
Name (Printed)

VP Fundraising
Title (if applicable)

29 Beltier Ave
Street address

Metuchen, NJ 08840
City/State/Zip

NCJW - Edison Section
Organization (if applicable)

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MM 93-48

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Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Elaine Kaufman
(Signature)

Elaine Kaufman
Name (Printed)

Co-President
Title (if applicable)

15 Cutter Ave
Street address

Edison NJ 08820
City/State/Zip

National Council of Jewish Women
Organization (if applicable)

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Barbara Finkel
(Signature)

BARBARA FINKEL
Name (Printed)

Recording Secy
Title (if applicable)

12 Salem Dr
Street address

Edison, NJ 08830
City/State/Zip

NEJW
Organization (if applicable)

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MAY - 8 1996

Hon. Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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In either case, I urge you to include Morality in Media [212-870-3222] as one of the "public interest groups." Founded in 1962, this national, interfaith organization has been at the forefront of efforts to uphold standards of decency on radio and TV.

Sincerely,

Keith & Bonnie Parker *for AGAIN*
10-21-88

KEITH & BONNIE PARKER
403 N. RACE ST.
GEORGETOWN, DE 19947
(302) 856-2857

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**Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I am writing to you in behalf of 76 children, ages 3-11 years old, who live in West Linn, Oregon. We belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We meet each Sunday in the children's organization of the church and I am the local President of that organization. We have been talking about what "we believe". We have been talking about the standards that we have set for ourselves and our families. We decided that one of the areas that we needed to look at and compare to our values was the media and in particular, the TV.

We decided to be TV detectives and to keep track of what we saw and heard that opposed our personal standards. We recognized that many hours are spent watching TV and that we needed to be careful about what we filled our mind with. Enclosed you will find a copy of the survey we were to conduct individually. We brought them back the next week and compared notes. After compiling our surveys, I asked the children and some of their leaders to write a letter about their results as they saw them. I am enclosing some of these letters to you and am very hopeful that you will take the time to read them and realize the sincerity with which they are written.

On a personal note, I am the mother of 10 children and am very concerned at the content of many, if not most, of the prime time shows that are on TV. I feel that there are so many mixed messages being sent to our families. I particularly object to the talk shows and the way they exploit children, the uneducated, the poor, the abused, the innocent and make unacceptable behaviors look like the norm. I can hardly tolerate the brainless sit-coms that occupy hours of valuable time on the program schedule. They teach disrespect, dishonesty, crudeness, impoliteness, and insensitivity in dealing with real life problems. It seems that if one makes a joke out of something, it becomes acceptable. I feel that the writers and producers and sponsors should have more regard for the impact that the behaviors seen have on the viewer. I believe that the violence in our society is largely due to the reckless treatment of it on TV and in the movies. I personally ask you to do all you can to see that the programming is upgraded and is more responsible. I have monitored very closely the programs watched in my home and know that ultimately the responsibility lies with me but I know that my views reflect the views of many, many parents. Please give attention to this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
**Kerry Stenson
2194 Valley View Dr.
West Linn, OR 97068**

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We are also finding out how much opposition there is to these things in the TV and movies we sometimes choose to watch. We are going to watch 3 favorite shows this week and see if we see bad examples of "being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men. Put a check by each one you see or hear.

Dishonesty (Lies Cheating)	
Fighting / Contention	
Bad words	
Unkindness (words actions)	
Immodesty	
Disobedience	
Harm to someone	
Word of Wisdom problems	



What shows did you watch?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

We all need to bring this report back to Primary next week.